

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 16, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Universal Form and Clamp Co., Bellwood, Illinois

On June 14, 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) received a request from the Bellwood Fire Department to assist in environmental response activities resulting from a fire at the Universal Form Clamp Facility (Universal) located in Bellwood, Illinois. Universal's employees were transferring material from a 55-gallon drum into a mixing tank. During the transfer, a spill occurred. It appears that an unknown source ignited the vapors from the spill resulting in an explosion. Responders to the scene included the Bellwood Fire Department, the Maywood Fire Department, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Universal's contractors. During fire fighting activities, Maywood Fire Department's HazMat Team took the lead on the environmental emergency response, including air monitoring. The fire began at approximately 9:00 a.m. and was extinguished by the Bellwood Fire Department around 11:30 a.m. Six injuries were reported, four employees and two fire fighters. On-Scene Coordinator Mike Harris provided oversight of cleanup activities at the site.

Contact: Mike Harris (312-886-0760)

Settlement Reached, Zeeland Chemicals, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan

On June 16, 2006, the Agency filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving the Administrative Complaint that was filed on October 24, 2005, against Zeeland Chemicals, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan, with a proposed penalty of \$144,872. The complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304. On January 2, 2005, at 7:30 a.m., Zeeland Chemicals, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan, had a 5,490-pound release of toluene. Toluene is a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 1,000 pounds. The person in charge of the facility notified the National Response Center (NRC) on January 2, 2005, at 5:45 p.m. or about 10 hours and 15 minutes after the release. The owner/operator notified the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) 10 hours and 30 minutes after the release. The owner/operator of the facility never immediately notified the Ottawa County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Additionally, the owner or operator of the facility submitted the written follow-up report to the SERC and the LEPC 78 days after the incident. Zeeland Chemicals, Inc., has agreed to a cash penalty of \$10,000 (\$1,391 to Superfund and \$8,609 to the General Treasury) and a supplemental environmental project (SEP) valued at \$70,625. The SEP will be to purchase and install a scrubber with a removal efficiency of up to 68 percent for toluene (current scrubber removal efficiency is 4 percent). Zeeland Chemicals, Inc., will have 30 days to pay the penalty and up to 12 months to purchase and install the SEP.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Operable Unit 1 ROD Amendment Signed, New Brighton/Arden Hills/TCAAP (USARMY) Superfund Site, New Brighton, Minnesota

On June 7, 2006, the Superfund Division Director signed a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment for the Operable Unit 1 (OU1) remedy at the New Brighton/Arden Hills/TCAAP (USARMY) Superfund site, New Brighton, Minnesota. OU1 includes the North Plume portion of volatile organic compound (VOC)-contaminated groundwater which, historically, migrated past the boundary of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP), contaminating the water supplies of the surrounding communities. The OU1 remedy includes operating several of the City of New Brighton's municipal supply wells so as to actively remediate the VOC-contaminated groundwater in the deep aquifer. Since the time of remedy implementation in 1996, the water quality data collected to monitor the progress of the OU1 remedy have undergone thorough analyses by the U.S. Army. These analyses, as reviewed by the U.S. EPA and the Minnesota

Pollution Control Agency, have shown that a better measure of the success of remediation is performance of an overall statistical evaluation of plume size and contaminant concentrations, rather than attempting to determine whether pumping of the extraction wells has created a "containment boundary in the vicinity of County Road E". The ROD Amendment, therefore, removes the requirement for a containment boundary and replaces it with a requirement to demonstrate, on an annual basis, consistent decreases in the size of the plume and the concentrations of contaminants. All other components of the original remedy (i.e., a Special Well Advisory Area, institutional controls, granular activated carbon treatment, and distribution of treated water to the municipal water supply) remain unchanged.

Contact: Tom Barounis (312-353-5577)

Removal Site Assessment, ASARCO Taylor Springs Site, Taylor Springs, Illinois

From June 5-12, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Craig Thomas conducted a Removal Site Assessment at residential properties surrounding the ASARCO Taylor Springs site in Taylor Springs, Illinois. OSC Craig Thomas was supported by OSC Jaime Brown, Keith Lesniak, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Kate Rodriguez, Region 5's Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) group, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor. The Assessment Team used the Rapid Assessment Tools (RAT) real time mapping software to capture sampling locations and field X Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF) readings at the site. Approximately 150 residential properties were assessed. Approximately 90 confirmatory soil samples were sent to an off-site laboratory for metals analysis.

The ASARCO Taylor Springs site is a former Zinc smelter, and is currently used as a Zinc Oxide plant. The facility began smelting operations in 1911; zinc smelting continued until 1924.

Zinc ore and locally produced coal were used to generate slab zinc and sulfuric acid. A waste slag generated from this operation was used widely in the community as fill material; this material often exhibits highly elevated concentrations of lead.

Contact: Craig Thomas (312-886-5907)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Inspection,
Hospital Laundry Services, Wheeling, Illinois**

On June 13, 2006, George Rancich, U.S. EPA Region 5 Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Hospital Laundry Services in Wheeling, Illinois. This facility is one of the largest laundries in the United States serving over 50 hospitals and many clinics in the area, providing laundering and sterilization services. Laundering operations use a highly alkaline cleaning solutions containing sodium hydroxide and in some cases use hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, and other hazardous chemicals. In addition, some facilities in this Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code use sulfuric acid to control the pH of their effluent waste water. This inspection is a continuation of the sector initiative involving large laundering facilities, which is being conducted by CEPPS in Region 5. The inspections are conducted to determine if the facilities meet hazardous chemical inventory reporting requirements under EPCRA 312 and their compliance with those requirements. To date, nine facilities have been brought into compliance as a result of the initiative inspections. The results of these latest inspections will be reviewed by CEPPS to determine if follow up action is required.

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